

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON FORD DEMIREL TALK, HELSINKI ACTION, EMBARGO

1. THE MEETING AT HELSINKI BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME
MINISTER DEMIREL, THE TURKISH DELEGATION'S REACTION TO SPEECHES
BY ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS, AND
EFFORTS IN THE CONGRESS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO DOMINATED THE
FRONT PAGES OF THE TURKISH PRESS FRIDAY (AUG 1). THE SENATE
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VOTE, HOWEVER, CAME TOO LATE TO BE REPORTED IN MOST FRIDAY

EDITIONS.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JULY 31 NEWS CONFERENCE RECEIVED LITTLE SEPARATE ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH THE SMALL CONSERVATIVE ANKARA DAILY, ZAFER, CARRIED A BANNER HEADLINE: "DEMIREL REFUSED FORD'S 50 MILLION DOLLAR PROPOSAL" ON THE BASIS OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

3. SIMILARLY, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TURKISH TAKEOVER OF COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS RECEIVED FAR LESS ATTENTION THAN EARLIER THIS WEEK. HOWEVER, HURRIYET'S FRONT PAGE BANNER HEADLINE SAID: "AME R-

ICA CANNOT EVEN GET A NEEDLE OUT OF THE BASES". THE HEADLINE WAS BASED ON A REMARK ATTRIBUTED BY A HURRIEYT REPORTER IN HELSINKI TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL. IN OTHER COVERAGE, GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO A WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER, PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL HAD AGREED PRIOR TO THEIR TRIPS TO HELSINKI THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON U.S. INSTALLATIONS WOULD REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL. ONLY MILLIYET PICKED UP SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF WEDNESDAY, WHICH IT REPORTED UNDER THE HEADLINE ON PAGE 6: "U.S. DEFENSE MINISTER: WE MAY LOSE ALL OUR BASES IN TURKEY."

4. AMONG ACCOUNTS OF THE FORD-DEMIREL MEETING, HURRIEYT REPORTED THAT DEMIREL HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT: "IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT A RESULT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TALKS BETWEEN US CONCERNING THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS WHILE THE EMBARGO CONTINUES."

HURRIYET ALSO EPORTED DEMIREL AS SAYING: "TO PUT OUR RELATIONS ON A NORMAL FOOTING, TO SOLVE THEPROBLEMS BETWEEN US, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE EMBARGO DECISION BE CANCELLED."

5. MILLIYET'S CORRESPONDENT IN HELSINKI, MEHMET ALI BIRAND, QUOTED "FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS" AS CHARACTERIZING DEMIREL'S REMARKS TO PRESIDENT FORD AS "QUITE CONCLIATORY." THESE SOURCES SAID, "ON THE QUESTION OF REOPENING THE BASES POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WERE SEEN." BIRAND SAID THAT ACCORDING TO LEAKED INFORMATION DEMIREL TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT THE EMBARGO MADE THE CYPRUS ISSUE MORE DIFFICULT. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR TURKISH JOURNALISTS, BIRAND REPORTED, DEMIREL REPEATED THE VIEW THAT THE EMBARGO WAS A GREAT ERROR ON THE PART OF CONGRESS, THAT IT WAS AN ACT OF HOSTILITY RATHER THAN FRIENDSHIP, AND, "IT'S UP TO THE UNITED

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STATES FAR MORE THAN US TO PUT U.S. - TURKISH RELATIONS IN ORDER."

6. CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN'S CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING THE BREAKFAST MEETING, DEMIREL DECLARED THAT, "I CAN DEFINIELY SAY THIS, THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS NOT IN THE HANDS OF MR. FORD. IT RESTS WITH THE CONGRESS AND TO INCLUDE CYPRUS IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS A VERY FAULTY ATTITUDE." THE TERCUMAN REPORTER ALSO QUOTED THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AS SAYING,

"AS FAR AS TURKEY IS CONCERNED, RELATIONS WITH AMERICA ARE VERY
VALUABLE. WE DID ALL IN OUR POWER TO PREVENT DETERIORATION OF
THESE RELATIONS."

7. IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE HELSINKI MEETINGS,
PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT
COVERAGE TO A STATEMENT BY RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, WHO
ACCUSED THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OF "PASSIVITY" ON THE CYPRUS
REPRESENTATION ISSUE. ECEVIT SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN AN
UNFORTUNATE CONCESSION IN MERELY DECLARING ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT
MAKARIOS REPRESENTING CYPRUS. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT THE
GOT SHOULD HAVE INSISTED ON SEPARATE REPRESENTATION FOR THE
TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION.

8. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN FIRDAY EDITIONS ON DEVELOPMENTS AT
HELSINKI CLOSELY REFLECTED DOMESTIC POLITICAL SYMPATHIES. THUS,
OPPOSITION CUMHURIYET IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT TURKEY
WAS ISOLATED AT HELSINKI. "OUR GREATEST ALLY, THE U.S., AND OUR
OTHER NATO ALLIES ARE LOOKING AT US WITH COLD AND EVEN HOSTILE GLANCE
S"

SAID CUMHURIEYT. IT SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT
HAVING MADE CLEAR TO TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION ITS POSITION ON
TURKEY'S VITAL INTERESTS. LEFTWING GUNAYDIN ALSO STRESSED THIS
THEME IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL: "SINCE NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE
YET, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT DEMIREL BROUGHT TO HELSINKI AND WHAT
HE WILL BRING BACK. THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH, MUCH BETTER
IF HE HAD GONE TO HELSINKI WITH THE FULL BACKING OF THE
OPPOSITION AND PUBLIC OPINION."

9. IN CONTRAST, PRO-JUSTICE PARTY SON HAVADIS DECLARED IN A
FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL THAT: "THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE NOW FOCUSED
ON HELSINKI AND THE EYES OF HELSINKI ARE FOCUSED ON PRIME
MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY. DEMIREL,
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AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A DIGNIFIED FOREIGN POLICY, ATTRACTS
ATTENTION. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE CONSCIENTIOUS AND
PATRIOTIC FOREIGN POLICY PURSUED BY THE DEMERIL GOVERNMENT. MR.
DEMIREL HAS SHOWN THE WORLD THAT TURKEY IS NOT A SATELLITE, BUT
AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL ORDER
IN THE WORLD..."

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